SOUTHERN FIRE BEHAVIOR OUTLOOK

FORECAST VALID FOR: October 14, 2011	**DATE/TIME ISSUED: October 14, 2011 @ 0830**
NEXT UPDATE: October 15, 2011	**SIGNED: Francis Mohr**

*This is a general fire behavior outlook for the Southern Geographic Area. It is intended to provide wildland fire managers with an overall view of fire behavior potential and to assist wildland firefighters with making sound decisions and maintaining situational awareness based on current and expected fire behavior. This outlook is not intended to replace onsite observations and fire behavior, or spot weather forecasts issued by the National Weather Service.

Some products provided in the outlook often are not updated prior to posting. Refer to updated information on the Southern Area Coordination Center Website as it becomes available: http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/index.htm

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Fire Weather Summary:

******Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches and Advisories******

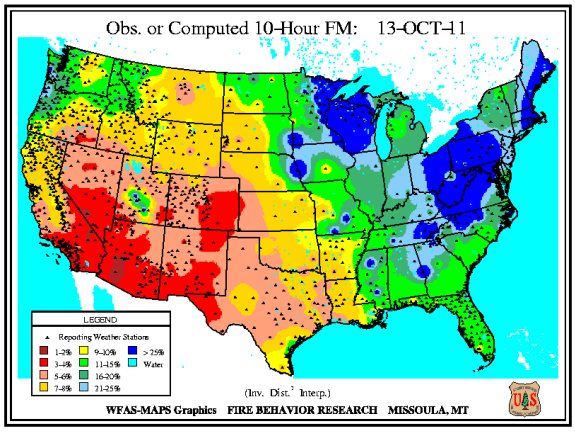
***None** at this time**

- For complete fire weather information and specific detailed forecasts see: http://www.weather.gov
- Refer to the MesoWest Regional Surface Maps to access weather observations. http://mesowest.utah.edu/index.html
- For updated fire danger and fuel moisture values link to: http://wfas.net/

Fuels Conditions:

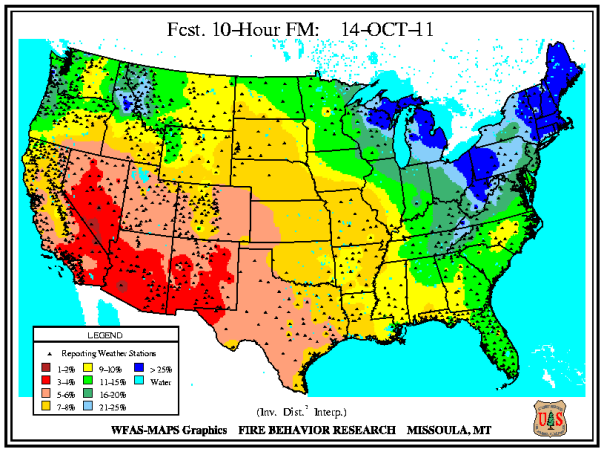
State of the Fuels will be updated daily to reflect the trend with changing weather conditions. Currently all fuel sizes have been affected as a result of recent rains. POI is very low. The following images summarize current fuel conditions and an assessment of fire behavior.

Observed 10 Hr. Fuel Moisture, Oct. 13, 2011

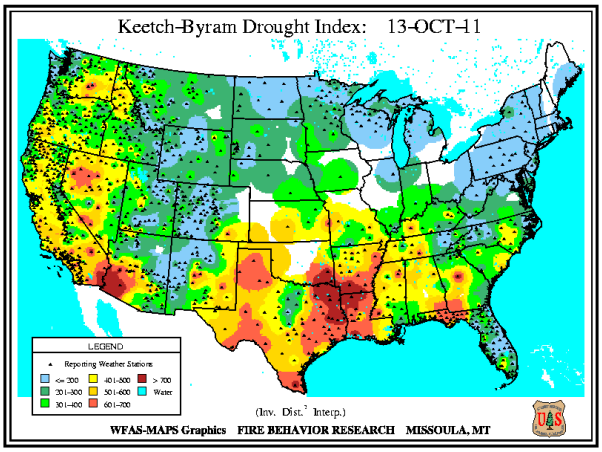


The one hour fuel moistures adjust more quickly to existing weather conditions and the potential of fire starts. The 10, 100 and 1000 hour fuel moisture contents have increased and are currently not the major contributor toward rapid heat intensity development, spread and escalating fire behavior. New starts are contained at smaller size and with less needed resources. Overall resistance to control is considerably less.

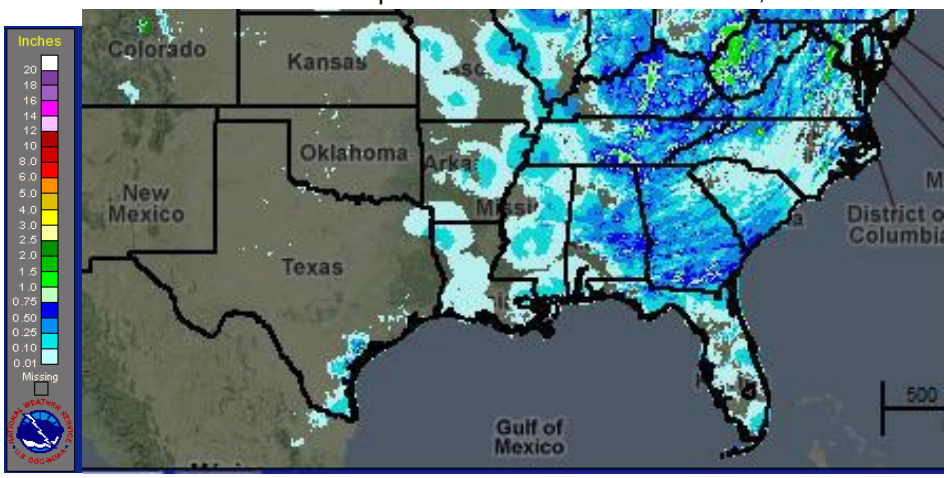
Forecasted 10 Hr. Fuel Moisture, 10-14-11



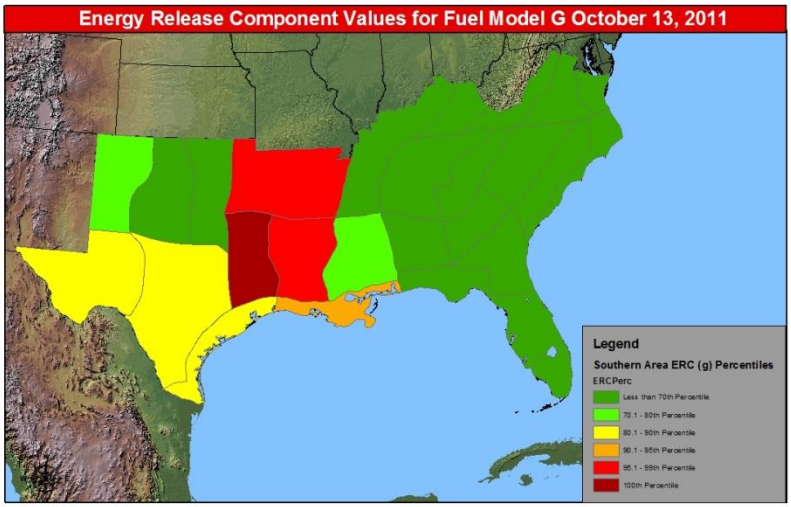
KB Index 10-13-11



Southern Area – Precipitation Past 24 Hrs. October 14, 2011



Southern Area ERC-G Summary Ending October 13, 2011



Fire Behavior Outlook

Northwest Texas, Panhandle, Oklahoma

Low probability of large fire growth. Moisture content of fine fuels, the major component of fuel loading in this type has lessened with recent sunny skies and increasing winds. New starts will spread primarily by terrain and/or wind gusts. The 10 and 100 hr. fuel moisture contents are still moderate as result of the recent rains and not yet a major contributor toward heat intensity development or increasing fire behavior.

Central Texas

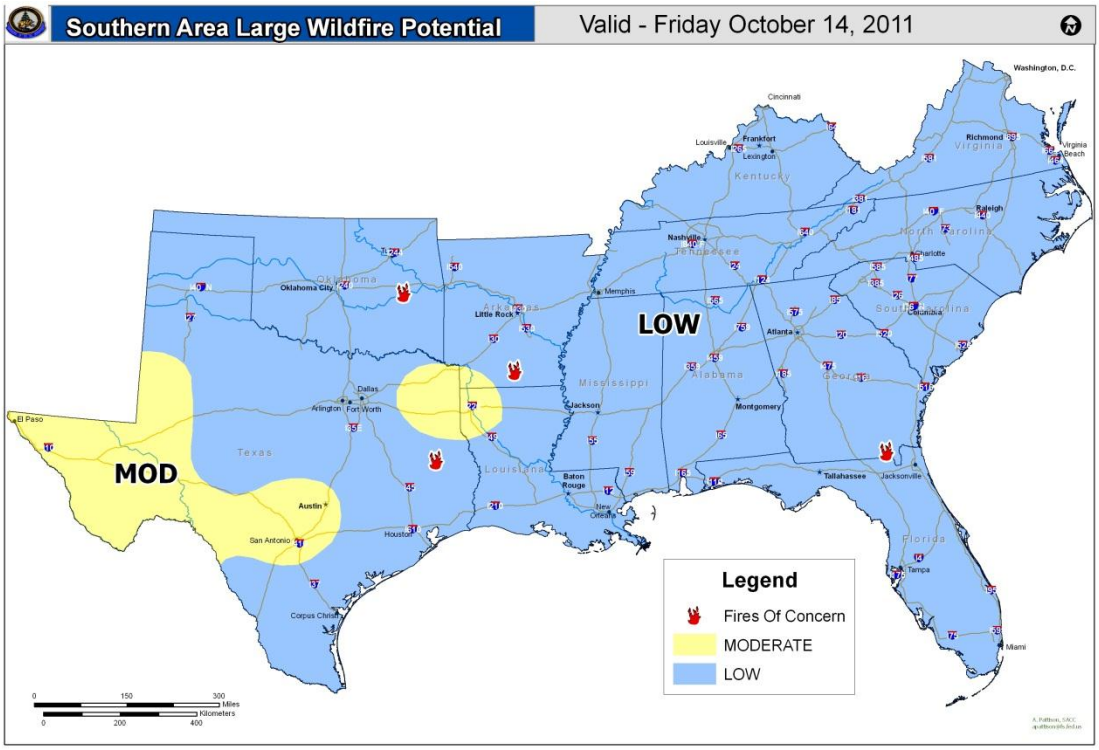
Low – Moderate probability of large fire growth. Return of sunny skies, lower humidity and seasonal temperatures has reduced fuel moisture contents causing an increase of ignition probability. Larger size dead woody fuels are not as affected. Drought stress on live fuels has caused very low live moisture content although recent moisture has elevated moisture content in these live fuels somewhat. The dead standing fuels, mostly 1, 10 and 100 hour sizes are also drying out with current weather conditions. Even a moderate speed wind will be a significant factor in drying this more open exposed fuel layer.

Northeastern & Central Texas

Low – Moderate probability of large fire growth. Recent moisture and higher R.H. has significantly lessened probability of ignition. Juniper and Oaks are experiencing die-back due to the drought stress. These fuels contribute to the dead fuel loading and fire intensity of crown fuels. Recently these fuels experienced some increased moisture content but are returning to a drier condition with current weather.

Eastern and Central Areas of the South

Low probability of ignition and large fire growth. Recent rainfall significantly affected surface fuel moistures through this area. With return of sunny skies and more seasonal weather conditions, the more open pine and pine-hardwood fuel types will start to experience drier fuels. The more dense overstory fuel types will remain at a high to moderate moist conditions however. Overall majority of this area of the southern region is at a low potential for ignition or increased fire behavior activities.



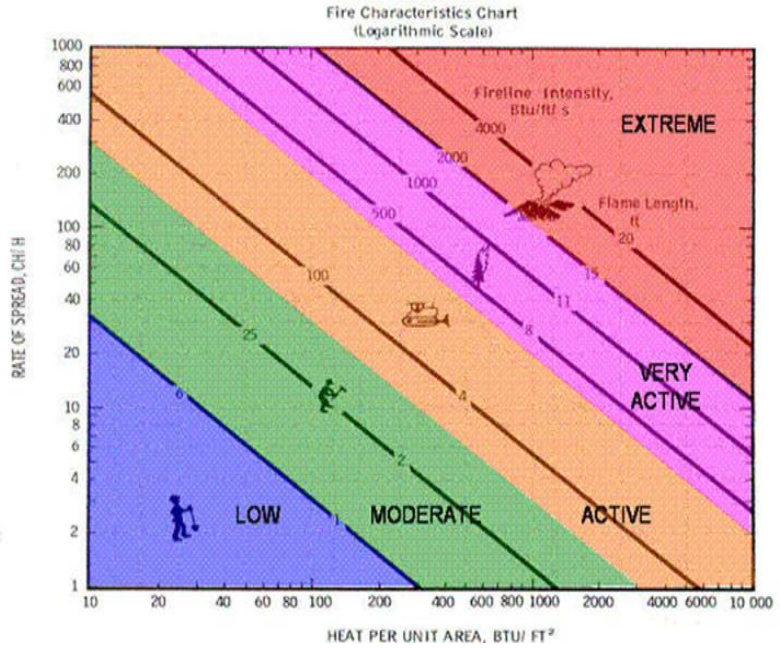
This product is intended to depict **GENERAL** fire behavior and large size potential in the Southern Area. Information summarized from various sources is applicable to the geographic area scale and not intended to provide site specific fire behavior conditions. Individual fire behavior forecasts using fuels, weather and topography must be used for specific incidents.

FIRE BEHAVIOR INTERPRETATION:

This tool provides an evaluation of potential effectiveness of various resources and capabilities based on a visual assessment of active flame length. The implications of observed or expected fire behavior are critical components of suppression strategies and tactics, particularly in terms of determining resistance to control, effectiveness of various resources and safety.

FIRE BEHAVIOR ADJECTIVE RATING	FLAME LENGTH (FEET)	INTERPRETATION FOR APPROPRIATE FIRE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE
LOW	0-4	Generally attack at the head or flanks are successful, handline should hold fire with very little resistant to control.
MODERATE	4-8	Fire is too intense for direct attack at the head. Handline cannot be relied upon; additional support from engine, dozer, tractor plow or air support is needed.
HIGH	8-11	Fire can present control problems; torching, crowning and spotting can be expected. Control efforts at head of fire are often ineffective.
VERY HIGH	11+	Crown runs, intense surface burning and spotting are common; control efforts at head are ineffective.
EXTREME		Although uncommon, can best be described as erratic fire behavior that goes beyond human methods of control or prediction. Rare events such as well-developed and sustained fire whirls, independent crowning and plume dominated fire growth.

The Fire Characteristics Chart ("Hauling Chart") is an excellent tool for evaluating safety and potential effectiveness of fireline resources. The Hauling Chart is also a useful tool to help firefighters assess the relative difficulty of constructing and holding a control line as affected by the behavior of the fire.



Stay updated by viewing the Southern area 7 day Significant Fire Potential product:
http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/predictive/outlooks/Fire_Potential.htm
Longer range outlooks reference the Climate Prediction Center link:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/index.php